

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 161705Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3896

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1427

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: BANANA WORKERS MEETING IN PANAMA

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY OF INVITATION EXTENDED TO AIFLD ASSISTED BANANA WORKERS' UNIONS TO SEND THREE DELEGATES TO MEETING OF BANANA WORKERS' UNIONS OF SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA FOR APRIL 28, 29 AND 30 IN PANAMA CITY. INVITATION IS SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BANANA WORKERS' UNIONS FOR INDEPDENT PRODUCERS IN BOCAS DEL TORO (RAMIRO CABRERE M.), INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS IN CHIRIQUI (BONIFACIO NIETO), CHIRIQUI LAND COMPANY IN PUERTO ARMUELLES (IDALIO SANTA MARIA) AND CHIRIQUE LAND COMPANY IN BOCAS DE TORO (BENJAMIN WOOD).

2. PROJECTED AGENDA AND SUMMONS (CONVOCATORIA) WHICH ACCOMPANIED INVITATION INDICATE THAT THIS MEETING IS ATTEMPT BY GOP TO RALLY LABOR

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IN LATIN AMERICAN BANANA INDUSTRY BEHIND GOP AND OTHER L.A.
GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE NATIONAL RETURNS FROM BANANA EXPORTS.
BOTH DOCUMENTS CALL FOR DISCUSSION AT UPCOMING MEETING OF CREATING
UNIFIED BANANA WORKERS' FRONT TO SUPPORT THESE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES.

SUMMONS CALLS FOR STUDY OF THE FORM OF ALLIANCE WHICH SHOULD BE
FORGED BETWEEN UNIONS AND GOVERNMENTS IN THE QUOTE STRUGGLE TO
RESCUE OUR NATIONAL WEALTH END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR
PROPOSED MEETING IN PANAMA CITY: (A) WORKERS' POSITION ON MEASURES
ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF BANANAS IN THE
INTERNATIONAL MARKET, (B) DISTRIBUTION OF INCREASED EARNINGS FROM
HIGHER BANANA PRICES AMONG WORKERS, THE STATE AND THE BANANA
COMPANIES, (C) UNITY AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN STRENGTHENING THE
ASPIRATIONS AND CONQUESTS OF THE WORKERS IN COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE
BANANAS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND (D) CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION INDEPENDENT OF NATIONAL AFFILIATION TO STRENGTHEN UNITY
AND GUARANTEE CONQUESTS WON BY WORKERS IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. BANANA WORKERS IN NICARAGUA HAVE REQUESTED AIFLD ASSISTANCE
TO COVER TRAVEL EXPENSES TO THIS MEETING. EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT
SUCH EXPENDITURE WOULD NOT BE IN U.S. INTEREST BUT WOULD APPRECIATE
CLARIFICATION AS TO HOW USG REGARDS THIS MEETING.
SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, EXPORTS, BANANAS, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES, PERSONNEL TRAVEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU01427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740087-1115
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740440/aaaabjqz.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANANA WORKERS MEETING IN PANAMA
TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, NU, AIFLD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005